

REMARKS

Applicants' respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-10 and 12-17 have been canceled. Claim 11 has been amended. New claim 18 has been added to the application.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 and 14-17 under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Hepp.

Applicants have canceled the rejected claims without prejudice to expedite allowance of the remaining claims.

The Examiner has rejected claim 11-13 under 35 USC §103 as being unpatentable over Hepp in view of Woford.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection in view of the following remarks.

Claims 12 and 13 have been canceled. Claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 1-11. The cited references do not include a solid body having the chamfered edge as claimed nor the key as claimed and is believed to be patentable over the cited art.

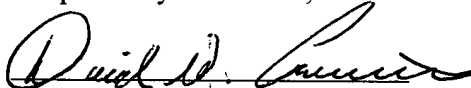
Moreover, Claim 18 includes all of the limitations of claim 11 except that the O-ring resilient means is replaced by pins which are neither suggested nor taught by any of the cited references. The O-ring or pins provide means for resisting rotation of the solid body when connecting same to said muzzle plug as claimed in the amended claims.

The Examiner has also enclosed prior art made of record and not relied upon but which is considered pertinent to Applicants' disclosure. Applicant has reviewed the additional prior art and agrees with the Examiner that while the references are pertinent they are no more relevant than the cited art.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the cited references and that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests prompt reconsideration and receipt of the formal Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner believes there are other unresolved issues in this case, Applicant's attorney would appreciate a telephone call at (502) 452-1233 to discuss any such remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David W. Carrithers", written over a horizontal line.

David W. Carrithers

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